

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

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forget to mention it when we
talked this morning.

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Article from The London Times

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 19 1983

Australia renews Soviet ties after freeze on Afghanistan

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Australian Government is lifting restrictions on cultural, sporting, and trade links with the Soviet Union imposed at the time of the intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

The announcement, made in Canberra by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, was part of a flurry of foreign policy initiatives by the new Labour government.

Mr Hawke said he had invited President Suharto of Indonesia to visit Australia as part of a move to improve relations with the country's closest neighbour. He would also visit Washington in June for talks with President Reagan, and had extended an invitation to Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, to visit Australia later this year.

"I have a clear understanding of Australia's dimension in the international scene," he told a

press conference for foreign journalists.

"We are a small country in terms of population and we will be walking the line between the absurdity of trying to strut the (world) stage and the stupidity of isolationism which ignores the fact that we are part of the global community."

On links with the Soviet Union, Mr Hawke said there was a "lack of consistency" in the restrictions imposed by the Fraser government. While trying to ban athletes from visiting the Soviet Union and restricting on the export of wool to Russia.

This included bales from Nareen, Mr Fraser's property in the Western district of Victoria, to which he had shipped through the Soviet Union.

"We will be vociferous in our condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It

cannot be justified on any grounds," Mr Hawke declared.

"We will make it quite plain that we believe the Soviets should withdraw from Afghanistan. We will not use it for... political purposes. But trade and other relations between the countries will go on."

● **General ban:** The Australian Government is to set up a Commission to investigate the impact of the Vietnam war on Australians who served in the country, including the use of chemical weapons such as the herbicide "yellow rain" widely used by the United States during the conflict.

Ex-servicemen have been pressing for three years for an investigation into their alleged health problems, including "yellow rain" and other medical defects.

Senator Arthur Gietzelt, the Minister for Veteran Affairs, announcing the inquiry yesterday, said he was preparing wide-ranging terms of reference for the commission. It would inquire into the use of chemicals and other factors, but would not be restricted to the effect on ex-servicemen and women.

He said there were also public servants who might have been affected during their time in Vietnam. He expected the inquiry would be completed by the middle of next year.

● **Republic denial:** With the Prince and Princess of Wales about to start a tour of Australia, Mr Hawke was asked if he had any plans to start early moves towards removing the Queen as the head of state and declaring a republic. "Certainly not", he replied, Reuter reports.